



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,108	12/10/2003	Todd A. Werpy	13872-B	8899
21567	7590	11/23/2005	EXAMINER	
WELLS ST. JOHN P.S. 601 W. FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 1300 SPOKANE, WA 99201			SHIAO, REI TSANG	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1626		
DATE MAILED: 11/23/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/731,108	WERPY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Robert Shiao	1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on application filed on 12/10, 2003.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) 1-44 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-44 are pending in the application.

***Election/Restriction***

2. The group set forth in the claims includes both independent and distinct inventions, and patentably distinct compounds (or species) within each invention. However, this application discloses and claims a plurality of patentably distinct inventions far too numerous to list individually. Moreover, each of these inventions contains a plurality of patentably distinct compounds, also far too numerous to list individually. For these reasons provided below, restriction to one of the following Groups is required under 35 U.S.C. 121, wherein an Group is a set of patentably distinct inventions of a broad statutory category (e.g. Compounds, Methods of Use, Methods of Making, etc.):

- I. Claims 1- 15, in part, drawn to processes of making, wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing two carbon atoms thereof, classified in class 548 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.
- II. Claims 1- 15, in part, drawn to processes of making, wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing one or from three to ten carbon atoms thereof, classified in class

549/546/540 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.

- III. Claims 16-24, in part, drawn to processes of making, wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing two carbon atoms thereof, classified in class 548 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.
- IV. Claims 16- 24, in part, drawn to processes of making, wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing one or from three to ten carbon atoms thereof, classified in class 549/546/540 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.
- V. Claims 25-31, in part, drawn to processes of making compounds of formula (B), wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing two carbon atoms thereof, classified in class 548 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.
- VI. Claims 25-31, in part, drawn to processes of making compounds of formula (B), wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing one or from three to ten carbon atoms thereof, classified in class 549/546/540 with various subclasses. If this group is elected,

applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.

- VII. Claims 32-37, in part, drawn to processes of making compounds of formula (C), wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing two carbon atoms thereof, classified in class 548 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.
- VIII. Claims 32-37, in part, drawn to processes of making compounds of formula (C), wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing one or from three to ten carbon atoms thereof, classified in class 549/546/540 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.
- IX. Claim 38, in part, drawn to processes of making pyrrolidinone compounds of formula (C), wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing two carbon atoms thereof, classified in class 549/546/540 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.
- X. Claim 38, in part, drawn to processes of making pyrrolidinone compounds of formula (C), wherein the variable R<sub>1</sub> containing one or from three to ten carbon

atoms thereof, classified in class 549/546/540 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.

XI. Claims 39-44, drawn to processes of making N-methyl pyrrolidinone compounds, classified in class 548 with various subclasses. If this group is elected, applicants are requested to elect a single species of cyclic substrate for the search purpose.

In accordance with the decisions in *In re Harnisch*, 631 F.2d 716, 206 USPQ 300 (CCPA 1980); and *Ex parte Hozumi*, 3 USPQ2d 1059 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1984), restriction of a Markush group is proper where the compounds within the group either (1) do not share a common utility, or (2) do not share a substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to that utility. In addition, a Markush group may encompass a plurality of independent and distinct inventions where two or more members are so unrelated and diverse that a prior art reference anticipating the claim with respect to one of the members would not render the other member(s) obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103.

**Where an election of any one of Groups I-XI is made, an election of a single compound or species is further required.** Moreover, an election of a single compound is further required including an exact definition of each substitution on the base molecule, i.e., the formula (B), wherein a single member at each substituent

group or moiety is selected. For example, if a base molecule has a substituent group  $R_1$ , wherein  $R_1$  is recited to be any one of from one to ten carbon atoms, etc., then applicant must select a single substituent of  $R_1$ , for example two carbon atoms, and each subsequent variable position. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the compounds are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the compounds to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C 103(a) of the other.

All compounds falling outside the class(es) and subclass(es) of the selected compound and any other subclass encompassed by the election above will be directed to nonelected subject matter and will be withdrawn from consideration under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 C.F.R. 1.142(b). Applicant may reserve the right to file divisional applications on the remaining subject matter. The provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 apply with regard to double patenting covering divisional applications.

Applicant is reminded that upon cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventors must be amended in compliance with 37C.F.R. 1.48(b) if one of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37CFR 1.17(i). If desired upon election of a single compound, applicants can review the claims and disclosure to determine the scope of the invention and can **set forth** a group of compounds which are so similar

within the same inventive concept and reduction to practice. Markush claims must be provided with support in the disclosure for each member of the Markush group. See MPEP 608.01(p). Applicant should exercise caution in making a selection of a single member for each substituent group on the base molecule to be consistent with the written description.

***Rationale Establishing Patentable Distinctiveness Within Each Group***

Each invention set listed above is directed to or involves the use or making of compounds which are recognized in the art as being distinct from one another because of their diverse chemical structure, their different chemical properties, modes of action, different effects and reactive conditions (MPEP 806.04, MPEP 808.01). Additionally, the level of skill in the art is not such that one invention would be obvious over either of the other inventions, i.e. they are patentable over each other. Chemical structures which are similar are presumed to function similarly, whereas chemical structures that are not similar are not presumed to function similarly. The presumption even for similar chemical structures though is not irrebuttable, but may be overcome by scientific reasoning or evidence showing that the structure of the prior art would not have been expected to function as the structure of the claimed invention. Note that in accordance with the holdings of Application of Papesch, 50 CCPA 1084, 315 F.2d 381, 137 USPQ 43 (CCPA 1963) and In re Lalu, 223 USPQ 1257 (Fed. Cir. 1984), chemical structures are patentably distinct where the structures are either not structurally similar, or the prior art fails to suggest a function of a claimed compound would have been expected from a similar structure.

***The above Groups represent general areas wherein the inventions are independent and distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:***

Inventions of Groups I-XI are independent processes of making various compounds, i.e., compounds of the formula (B) or (C), (D), etc., because starting materials, catalyst, solvent, and reaction conditions of each group differ in elements, bonding arrangement and chemical property to such an extend that a reference anticipating processes of making of any one group would not render another group obvious.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

In addition, because of the plethora of classes and subclasses in each of the Groups, a serious burden is imposed on the examiner to perform a complete search of the defined areas. Therefore, because of the reasons given above, the restriction set forth is proper and not to restrict would impose a serious burden in the examination of this application.

***Telephone Inquiry***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Robert Shiao whose telephone number is (571) 272-0707. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph K. McKane can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
TAOFIQ SOLOLA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

  
Joseph K. McKane  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1626

  
Robert Shiao, Ph.D.  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1626

November 16, 2005